

Grant Proposal Components

Offered by the National Dropout Prevention Center

The National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC) at Clemson University provides cost-effective services that support the student achievement and graduation rate improvement efforts of schools and districts. NDPC will work with school and district personnel to incorporate services into grant proposals.

Additional information about NDPC resources and services may be found at www.dropoutprevention.org or by contacting Dr. Sandy Addis, NDPC Director, at haddis@clemson.edu.

Professional Development	
<p>Speakers</p> <p>NDPC offers a variety of speakers on at-risk issues and dropout prevention topics for a variety of educator audiences including administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, support personnel, counselors, and school boards. These speakers can deliver school opening and keynote addresses to raise awareness of at-risk student needs, to build system-wide ownership of graduation rates, or to develop skills among specific employee groups such as counselors and alternative program staffs. Speakers may be used in grant proposals to build support for grant-funded interventions and to achieve post-grant sustainability. For more information, contact John Gailer at jgailer@clemson.edu.</p>	<p>\$1,000 to \$5,000</p>
<p>Targeted Skills-Building Workshops (on-site)</p> <p>NDPC offers a wide variety of workshops that develop the skills of specific educator groups to understand and address the needs of at-risk youth. Skills-Building Workshops may be used in grant proposals to help staff more effectively implement grant-funded programs. For more information contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clemson.edu.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling Strategies for At-Risk Youth • Engaging Parents and Families of At-Risk Youth • Understanding and Reaching Trauma-Impacted Students • Using Social Emotional Learning Strategies • Analyzing Local Data to Improve Graduation Rates • Building a Dropout Prevention School Climate • Using Service Learning to Improve Student Engagement and Achievement 	<p>\$1,500 to \$5,000</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilizing the Community to Support Improved Graduation Rates • Effective Instructional Strategies for Alternative Programs • Using Data to Analyze and Improve School Climate • The Local School Board’s Role in Improving Graduation Rates • Effective Strategies for Improving Freshman Success 	
<p>Online Professional Development in Dropout Prevention Strategies</p> <p>NDPC offers online courses in each of the research-based <i>15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention</i>. The <i>15 Effective Strategies</i> have been formally adopted by numerous states and school systems as highest-impact interventions for graduation rate improvement. Each online course takes participants through exploration of what the strategy is, how it fits within the <i>15 Effective Strategies</i> model, and the research supporting it, allowing participants to envision for themselves how the strategy can be implemented within their own schools and communities. Participants investigate successful implementations across the country, potential benefits and barriers to implementing the strategy, and key implementation characteristics to consider in setting up their own programs. Each self-paced course takes from 60 to 120 minutes to complete, with the longer overview course taking about 6 hours to complete. Courses may be taken individually to build staff capacity or in clusters to complete professional learning requirements of the National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification Program. Online courses may be used in grant programs to prepare staff for the most effective implementation of grant-funded initiatives. For more information, contact Jennie Cole at jecole@clsmson.edu. Courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Early Childhood Education</u> Dropout prevention starts early, often <i>before</i> students arrive to school. Learn how you and your community can be proactive in decreasing your dropout rate years in advance. • <u>Professional Development</u> Continuous high quality professional development around research-based strategies can increase student engagement and staff competencies. Find out how your school and district can mirror ESSA-supported professional development focused on student success in schools. • <u>Early Literacy Development</u> Early literacy makes a difference in dropout rates. Learn the importance of early literacy and how community and school 	<p>\$125 per participant license per course</p> <p>\$225 per participant for the overview course (about three times as long as each individual strategy course)</p>

organizations can work together to help students develop early literacy skills at home and at school.

- Systemic Approach

An “all systems on board” approach provides alignment and change required for a school and community to work together in making sure all students graduate. Learn about how this has happened in many communities and their remarkable results in graduation rates.

- Personalized Learning

Personalized learning strategies are often the solution to a disengaged student’s barrier to successful high school completion. Learn how you can individualize instruction for personalized learning to recapture disengaged students and increase your graduation rate.

- Service-Learning

Service-learning is a highly engaging form of learning that is somewhat directed by the student. Learn more about how service-learning can help your potentially disengaged students involve themselves in something that truly matters to others through service.

- Family Engagement

Family support is one of the top influencers of students who do graduate, but family engagement can be difficult to attain at times. Learn about some creative ways schools and districts reach out to their parents to form a unified bond for their students.

- School-Community Collaboration

The school-community alliance can make a powerful impact on a graduation rate and the livelihood of the community as a whole. Find out how these alliances can be grown and the impact the resulting increased rates have made in other communities.

- Safe Learning Environments

Learning something new involves risk. Students are most invested in learning in environments that are physically, emotionally, and academically safe. Learn how you can create and sustain a safe learning environment in which your students will thrive.

- Mentoring/Tutoring

Well implemented mentoring and tutoring programs help many students get back or stay on track for graduation. Find out how you can implement a high quality program for struggling students who might otherwise derail to dropout status.

- Alternative Schooling

Different students have a variety of unique needs. One of the most important alternatives to graduating from a traditional

<p>high school is graduating from an alternative school. Learn more about how high quality alternative school programs keep students in school and some of the characteristics of these programs that make the difference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>After-School/Out-of-School Opportunities</u> After-school and out-of-school opportunities, camps, and clubs provide students with extended time for academics, hobbies, interests, and relationship building in safe locations. Examine the research and learn how these high quality programs can impact graduation rates. • <u>Active Learning</u> Active learning implies engaged learners and students who embrace school. Learn more about how active learning can influence students in their decisions to remain in school. • <u>Educational Technology</u> Educational technology as a tool in providing relevant and engaging student instruction can build a captive audience and keep students in school. As a tool to help prepare students for college and career, educational technology can also support deeper thinking, more complex reasoning, and student buy-in to education. Learn about how educational technology can be utilized as an engagement tool and more in the classroom. • <u>Career and Technical Education</u> Career and technical education provides students with relevance and excitement related to entering adulthood, grounding them in skills they need to become productive and skilled citizens. When implemented well, career and technical education programs can provide students with a vision for the future, and give them reasons to stay in school. Learn more about how successful career and technical education programs keep students in school. • <u>Overview Course</u> This newest course provides an overview to the <i>15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention</i>, information and examples to aid in understanding how the strategies work in relation to one another, and tools to support and engage educators to address the needs of every student and to help increase graduation rates. This course is longer than the other online courses and can be completed in about 6 hours. 	
<p>Conference Participation NDPC offers a wide range of national, regional, and special topic conferences addressing all facets of the dropout prevention issue. NDPC conferences provide current information to teachers, counselors, social workers, administrators, school board</p>	<p>\$375 per participant, average registration fee</p>

<p>members, and agency personnel. At NDPC conferences, practitioners network with, learn from, and are motivated by national expert speakers and hundreds of special content presentations. The National At-Risk Youth Forum is offered each February in Myrtle Beach, SC. Conference participation may be included in grants to generate post-grant sustainability of grant-funded programs. For more information, contact Denise Gianforcaro at jdianfo@clermson.edu.</p>	
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Capacity Building	
<p>The Diploma Minded Principal</p> <p>NDPC provides a one-day workshop for administrators addressing the concepts, mindsets, attitudes, behaviors, and skills that building and system-level leaders must master to lead significant graduation rate improvement. The Diploma Minded Principal is delivered by Dr. Mark Wilson, 2009 National Secondary Principal of the Year. The Diploma Minded Principal may be utilized to build leader capacity to implement grant-funded initiatives. For more information contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clermson.edu.</p>	\$4,000
<p>The Diploma Planning Institute</p> <p>A team of NDPC experts will train and guide school or district teams to analyze local data and circumstances and to develop and implement research-based dropout prevention plans. NDPC's Diploma Planning Institutes can improve existing initiatives or replace random acts of dropout prevention with strategic, calculated, and likely-to-succeed initiatives. Diploma Planning Institutes are well-suited for multischool districts or offering by regional service agencies and provide long-term, follow-up support for local teams that are responsible for implementation and outcomes. The Diploma Planning Institute is an excellent grant-funded initiative which builds research-based local support for other grant-funded interventions. To learn more, contact John Gailer at jgailer@clermson.edu.</p>	\$10,000 to \$20,000
<p>National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification</p> <p>NDPC offers a nationally recognized credential for practitioners who demonstrate expertise and are trained, current, and professionally networked in the area of dropout prevention. The National Dropout Prevention Specialist (NDPS) Certification Program provides field practitioners with research-based professional development, field project experience, and professional contacts toward attainment of national certification. The field accomplishments and contact information of NDPS</p>	\$350 per participant + support for professional learning credits

<p>Certificate holders are shared nationally as a resource for others working in dropout prevention. As part of a grant, National Dropout Prevention Specialist Certification can build a local team of experts to sustain grant initiatives past grant funding. To learn more, contact Jennie Cole at jecole@clermson.edu.</p>	
<p>Community and Leader Involvement</p> <p>NDPC will assist local school districts to mobilize and engage the greater community in dropout prevention through design and development of strategies, campaigns, media releases, and events. NDPC staff will advise local leaders on proven community dropout prevention campaign strategies, provide community engagement materials, train education leaders in community engagement, and support local events. Community and Leader Involvement can be grant-funded to generate essential outside-school support for grant programs. For information about how NDPC can support community and leader involvement, contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clermson.edu.</p>	<p>\$1,000 to \$8,000</p>
<p>Network Membership</p> <p>NDPC offers individual, four-member institutional, and ten-member institutional premier membership in the National Dropout Prevention Network. Network members receive a wide range of publications, newsletters, research reports, event updates, and discounts on NDPC fees and services. Network membership places practitioners in direct contact with both NDPC personnel and practitioners across the nation and maintains staff focus on the importance of improved graduation rates. Network Membership, as a grant component, builds local capacity to guide and sustain grant-funded initiatives. For more information contact Debra Andrews at ddandre@clermson.edu.</p>	<p>Individual memberships—\$85/yr.;</p> <p>Institutional or group memberships—\$295/yr. for four members or \$600/yr. for ten members</p>
<p>Publications</p> <p>NDPC offers a wide variety of hard copy publications that inform dropout prevention practitioners of research findings, effective strategies, and current issues. NDPC also offers over 60 books, guides, and reports for educators, dropout prevention leaders, and students. Journals, newsletters, and books are available for subscription, purchase, or, in some instances, at no cost. Publications can provide the research base and guidance for grant program initiatives. Visit www.dropoutprevention.org for more information or contact Debra Andrews at ddandre@clermson.edu.</p>	<p>\$4.00 to \$40.00 per copy</p>

Assessment and Review of Existing Programs	
<p>Alternative School and Program Improvement</p> <p>NDPC provides consultation and technical assistance in design, evaluation, and improvement of alternative schools and programs. While customized to the specific district situation, this service typically includes assessment of existing alternative programs, recommendations for modification to achieve improved student outcomes, ongoing support for implementation, and evaluation. As a grant component, Alternative School Assessment can revitalize and increase the effectiveness of existing programs. For more information, contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clemson.edu.</p>	<p>\$3,000 to \$45,000</p>
<p>Program Assessment and Review (PAR) (schoolwide)</p> <p>NDPC will conduct data-based, on-site assessments of existing practices for schools, school clusters, and districts, and provide leaders with reports of effectiveness and research-based recommendations for modifications that are most likely to improve student success and graduation rates. PARs are nonjudgmental assessments by teams of school-friendly experts and help school leaders best determine areas to target and practices to alter for higher graduation rates. PARs provide resources and follow-up support for implementation of recommendations. As a grant component, PARs can revitalize and improve student outcomes of schools. For more information, contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clemson.edu.</p>	<p>\$20,000 to \$40,000</p>
<p>Targeted Program Assessment and Review (TPAR) (program-specific)</p> <p>NDPC will conduct program-specific, data-based, on-site assessment of existing programs to assist schools and districts to improve the cost-effectiveness and student outcomes of these programs. Targeted PARs may focus on after-school programs, summer programs, career education programs, counseling services, mentoring programs, or credit recovery programs. Targeted PARs provide recommendations, resources, and follow-up support for implementation. As a grant component, TPARs can revitalize and improve existing at-risk and instructional programs. For more information, contact Sandy Addis at haddis@clemson.edu.</p>	<p>\$10,000 to \$25,000</p>



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